

2003-2004 UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM: DESCRIPTION AND RULES

INTRODUCTION

In 1962, the United States Senate voted unanimously to endorse a nationwide youth program that would bring high school students to Washington, D.C. for a brief on-site introduction into the operations of the federal government and, in particular, the United States Senate.

The Program was created and originally authorized by Senate Resolution 324 (see page 4) and continued in succeeding years by unanimous action of the Senate.

The resolution specified that the program should be "supported by private funds with no expense to the federal government." The William Randolph Hearst Foundation made available the necessary funds, and each year, two high school juniors or seniors from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia have participated in this unique experience.

THE PROGRAM

The United States Senate Youth Program will be held in Washington, D.C., from February 28-March 6, 2004.

The student delegates will be immersed in Washington activities throughout their week's stay. Visits to the Senate, House of Representatives, the Supreme Court and the Pentagon are interspersed with hours at various Smithsonian museums. Delegates will hear major policy addresses by senators, cabinet members, officials of the Departments of State and Defense, and others.

The Foundation will pay all expenses for the Washington week, including transportation, hotel, and meals.

A nurse will be available to delegates at all times, and a physician will be on immediate call throughout the week.

The Foundation will maintain insurance (subject to the restrictions contained in Rule 3), in such amounts and covering such risks as the Foundation determines, from the time the delegates leave home until their return.

The armed services will provide specially selected men and women officers to act as escorts for the student delegates while in Washington.

HOW TO QUALIFY

Two students from each state and the District of Columbia will be selected by the office of the chief state school officer (that is, the Commissioner of Education in the case of Missouri).

Alternate delegates will also be selected as replacements in the event a primary delegate is for any reason unable to participate in the program's Washington week.

Selection will be based solely on the outstanding ability and demonstrated qualities of leadership as *elected* high school student body officers of the 2003-2004 school year.

1. Any high school junior or senior student (irrespective of race, color, creed, sex, or financial need) is eligible for the program provided he or she has not previously been a delegate to the program and is **CURRENTLY** serving in an **ELECTED** capacity in any one of the following student government offices:
 - a. Student body president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer
 - b. Class president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer
 - c. Student council representative
 - d. Student representative to district, regional, or state-level civic or educational organization
2. Each student must be a **PERMANENT RESIDENT** of the United States and currently enrolled in a public or private secondary school located in the state in which either one of his or her parents or guardians legally resides. A student attending a school that is located in a state other than the state of legal residence of either one of such student's parents or guardians is not eligible.

RULES

1. The chief school officer from each state must submit the names of their two delegates and alternates in writing to the Foundation on or before December 1, 2003. **Each state, therefore, will have an earlier deadline in September or October.** In addition, the chief school officer must confirm each student's appointment as a delegate with the student's high school principal. Once the confirmation of the delegates and alternates is received, the Foundation will forward to the delegate a statement of participation to be signed by his or her parents or legal guardians, a copy of the rules and scholarship regulations, and other pertinent information relating to the delegate's stay in Washington.
2. The Foundation will arrange transportation to and from Washington, D.C. It will be the responsibility of the local school district, local secondary school, and/or parents or legal guardians to transport (at their expense) each delegate to and from the nearest commercial airport, bus terminal, or railroad station.
3. No tours or side trips will be permitted by the individual delegates en route to or from Washington, D.C., or while in Washington, D.C.

The following dates and time frames are strictly observed for Washington Week arrivals and departures of student delegates (pending emergency weather conditions) to and from the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C., Eastern Time: arrival on Saturday, February 28 between 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. and departure on Saturday, March 6 between 5:00 a.m. and 12 noon.

4. Each delegate will be the guest of the United States Senate throughout the program and will be required to conduct himself or herself in such a manner as to reasonably assure that neither the United States Senate nor the Senate Youth Program will be discredited as a result of the conduct of such delegate.
5. Rules related to the Senate Youth Program and scholarship awards shall be construed, interpreted, and applied by the foundation, whose action and determination shall be final and binding.

SCHOLARSHIP

The William Randolph Hearst Foundation believes it is in the public interest to encourage these outstanding young people to continue their educational development. To this end, the Foundation will make available to each of the delegates who participate in the year's program a \$5,000 scholar-ship award, subject to the conditions and requirements specified in the scholarship rules. Additional information concerning the scholarships will be given to the delegates upon their arrival in Washington.

Certificates representing a \$5,000 scholarship award will be presented to delegates during their visit to Washington, D. C.—often personally by their senators. If the primary delegate is unable to attend the Washington Week, the foundation must be notified in advance. Appropriate disposition of scholarship funds will be determined by the program director.

SCHOLARSHIP RULES

These rules will govern the \$5,000 Senate Youth Program Scholarship awards:

- a. To qualify, a student must participate in the Senate Youth Program during its Washington Week. If a selected student is unable to participate, merits of his or her reasons will be considered by the Foundation relative to scholarship awards.
- b. To obtain scholarship funds, a student must, within two years after high school graduation, en-roll at an accredited U.S. college or university, pledging to include courses in government or re-lated subjects to his or her undergraduate program.
- c. Eligible students must complete an Application for Grant for Scholarship form, have it signed by the dean of admissions or registrar, affixed with the college or university's official seal, and forwarded to the foundation.
- d. The \$5,000 scholarship check, when received by the school, is to be designated for the specified student's educational expenses within a four-year period. Funds may be expended for tuition, enrollment and other fees and charges, or room and board provided or approved by the school. Funds not used by the designated student are to revert to the general scholarship fund for utilization at the school's discretion.
- e. Extensions of the above time limitations may be considered only in exceptional circumstances. To seek extension of the two-year enrollment requirement, a student must provide the foundation with a reason for the delay by October 15 of the year he or she would otherwise have been required to enroll. In seeking to prolong the four-year scholarship period, a student must promptly notify the Foundation of the reason for interruption of his or her education.
- f. A student will automatically forfeit eligibility for a scholarship award by failure to fulfill the above rules, or in the event of misconduct as a delegate to the Senate Youth Program.

UNITED STATES SENATE RESOLUTION 324 (1962)

In 1962, Senate Resolution 324, submitted by Senator KUCHEL (for himself and Senators MANSFIELD, DIRKSEN, AND HUMPHREY), was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration, and, subsequently, unanimously approved by the United States Senate as follows: Whereas the continued vitality of our Republic depends, in part, on the intelligent understanding of our political processes and the functions of our National Government by the Citizens of the United States; and

Whereas the durability of a constitutional democracy is dependent upon alert, talented, vigorous competition for political leadership; and

Whereas individual Senators have cooperated with various private and university undergraduate and graduate fellowship and internship programs relating to the work of Congress; and

Whereas in the high schools of the United States, there exists among students who have been elected to student body offices in their junior or senior year a potential reservoir of young citizens who are experiencing their first responsibilities of service to a constituency and who should be encouraged to deepen their interest in and understanding of their country's political processes: Now, therefore be it RESOLVED, That the Senate hereby expresses its willingness to cooperate in a nationwide competitive high school Senate youth program which would give several representative high school students from each State a short indoctrination into the operation of the United States Senate and the Federal Government generally, if such a program can be satisfactorily arranged and completely supported by private funds with no expense to the Federal Government.

RESOLUTION 146. To amend S. Res. 324 of the Eighty-seventh Congress to provide for the participation of the Department of Defense education system for dependents in overseas areas in the Senate Youth Program.

Resolved, That S. Res. 324, Eighty-seventh Congress, agreed to May 17, 1963, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

Section 3. For the purpose of this resolution, the term "State" includes the Department of Defense education system for dependents in overseas areas.

FUNDING

This program has been funded since its inception by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation (90 New Montgomery Street, Suite 1212, San Francisco, California 94105; 415-543-4057 and 1-800-841-7048). The Foundation's President is Randolph A. Hearst. The Senate Youth Program's Director is Rita A. Almon.